

Rainier Beach Discussion of Initial Strategies – May 4, 2011

The purpose of this discussion is to look forward and think about what steps we might take to address the key issues and opportunities. These need not be perfect or even feasible; just good ideas. Think about what’s already working in this or other communities that we can build on. Consider what new ideas might be brought to bear. Ask how actions can link to create bigger wins. The Phase 1 Themes and associated notes provide many ideas to work from.

By looking ahead we can better define the work we need to do to understand if an idea is appropriate and/or feasibility. (The right two columns are linked.) We can also better define the questions we will ask at the next workshop.

Key Issues to be Addressed During Update (Vision for the Future) <i>These will become the basis for GOALS</i>	Scope / Issues to be Addressed in NPU <i>Our & the Consultant’s Work</i>	Initial Strategies (examples) <i>Proto-Policies, Strategies and Actions</i>
Community Character <ul style="list-style-type: none">Multicultural identityCelebrate what each culture bringsCreate a positive reputation	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Build on the asset of community diversity when creating recommendations; especially for economic development/town center areas.Plan comprehensively to ensure that the interrelationships between issues are leveraged.Develop strategies to increase connections between community members. Create places and events that celebrate the best from each culture.	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Develop and program a multi-cultural center separate from the Rainier Beach Community Center.Support efforts, such as the RBCEC, that connect people to organizations that are working on issues.Support community activism
Town Center <ul style="list-style-type: none">Create a CenterBuild on cultural diversityBuild on and improve connections between existing positive elements including business, parks and community facilitiesIncrease breadth of small, locally-owned businesses within the center	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Define “town center” as the place or places where the community comes together.Identify specific places and events for community gathering.Define physical improvements to both public and private spaces that will knit together the smaller centers of activity (schools, library, community center, grocery stores, ethnic markets & centers, Seward /Rainier).Further define commercial and residential development opportunities in station area.	<ul style="list-style-type: none">In the near term, focus on smaller-scale improvements at key locations that improve the character, business health and function of existing destinations.<ul style="list-style-type: none">Saars/Safeway/Payless Shoesstation areaRainier Ave S/S. Rose StSeward Ave S./57th Ave S.Specify any needed zoning/development regulations for station area.Implement programs and events that bring diverse elements of community together (e.g. cultural festival)
Businesses <ul style="list-style-type: none">Increase range of stores; particularly shops and restaurants	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Identify measures, such as grants and programs that support small business development and employment opportunities.Refine vision for future commercial and residential development of key commercial areas including:<ul style="list-style-type: none">Saars/Safeway/Payless Shoesstation areaRainier Ave S/S. Rose StSeward Ave S./57th Ave S.Connect economic development with jobs, youth & safety	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Support and expand the existing diverse mix of generally small-scale businesses by...Work with OED to better tailor grants to immigrant and family-owned businesses.Encourage new and existing models of financing mixed-use development projects that provide long-term affordable commercial space, as well as affordable housing, in City-funded mixed-use projects.Target specific locations in the Rainier Ave/56 & 57th area as locations for desired business development.Define any needed rezones for area around light rail station.Identify strategies for employing more youth in RB.Coordinate business development activities (e.g. technical assistance & business grants) with city projects such as the Community center and R.O.W. improvements.
Youth and Education <ul style="list-style-type: none">Develop more programs for youth and familiesCreate more places for teens to gather	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Continue work to build relationships with SPS.Continue work with Parks to guide youth programming.Furth activate school properties for public use during weekends, summer	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Build on the work occurring through the Youth and Families Initiative, coordinating with its top priorities (Health, Neighborhood Safety, Race and Social Justice, Strong Neighborhoods, Youth Development, and

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<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Increase collaboration between community and schools around teens education and culture 	and evening	Education) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Work with parks to identify interim locations in RB for teen activities. Identify strategies for employing more youth in RB. Work with SPS to increase community use of school space throughout the year. Consider ways to bring more community to games scheduled at RB HS.
Housing <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Maintain access to affordable housing Continue providing housing affordable too full range of incomes Improve programs and access to programs supporting home ownership. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Evaluate options to encourage dense residential (with commercial as appropriate) development along Henderson and at the light rail station. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Target specific locations in the Rainier Ave/56 & 57th area for desired residential development Define any needed rezones for area around light rail station and identify options to include a range of affordability in these areas. Support homeowners who are low-income, senior or disabled through programs such as... Use programs such as revolving loan funds and land trusts to keep owner-occupied housing affordable.
Transportation <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Improve pedestrian connections especially in commercial core Create a safer environment for pedestrians and bicyclists Establish good bus connection to light rail Accommodate parking for light rail 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Define strategies to better connect community to transit, including light rail Define improves to and bike pedestrian environment within the Beach Square area and to station. Review Southeast Transportation Strategy, Pedestrian, Master Plan, Bicycle Master Plan and Transit Master Plan to confirm or recommend changes to priority projects Refine (where needed) the design of key priority project(s) to support cost estimates needed to secure funding. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Leverage R.O.W. improvement project by carefully coordinating with adjacent development opportunities. implement SETS project in Rainier Beach: 15, 16, 38-43 Create connections from Fisher Pl. and Director St. to Mapes Creek Walk.
Safety <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Polices presence and responsiveness Violence; particularly gang-related 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Think of all recommendations as a way to address safety 	<ul style="list-style-type: none">
Parks and Opens Space <ul style="list-style-type: none"> More parks Better access to water Improve park furnishings Increase park programming for all ages. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Define connections to and circulation within public spaces Identify means to improve access to programs/activities for youth and teens Identify ways to improve use of Beer Sheva 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Work with SPS to improve pedestrian circulation through sites. Work with parks to identify interim locations in RB for teen activities. Refine programs to respond to community interests in reparation for re-opening of community center. Beer Sheva <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Improve entrance to BS from Henderson street and add walkway Consider adding swimming beach to BS Connect BS to Atlantic City Nursery and Pritchard Beach